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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

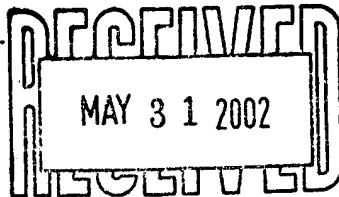
Applicants : Katsuakira MORIWAKE et al.

Serial No. : 09/849,653

Filed : May 4, 2001

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Art Unit : 2173



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)

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Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.56, applicants are filing this Information Disclosure Statement and the accompanying form PTO-1449 along with copies of the prior art therein identified. Such prior art has come to the attention of applicants by being cited in a Search Report issued

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in the corresponding European application on April 11, 2002. So far as applicants are aware, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the documents identified herein constitute prior art to the present application.

Please charge any fees incurred by the filing of this document or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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